

REPORT OF BRENTWOOD TOWN MEETING

MARCH 18, 2023

At a legal meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Brentwood in the County of Rockingham, State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in Town Affairs, held at Swasey Central School on Saturday March 18, 2023 at 9:00am the following business was conducted:

Moderator Richard Chamberlain opened the meeting at 9:16am and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

There are 3291 registered voters in Brentwood, of which, 322 registered voters (10%) attended Town Meeting.

The Town Report was dedicated to Albert "Skip" Belanger who retired from his position as a long time Cemetery Trustee and Brentwood Historical Society member. Skip received a standing ovation.

The Moderator read the results of Tuesday's election and all who were elected came to the front and were sworn in by Town Clerk Daphne Woss.

Andrew Artimovich presented Robert Mantegari with a gift and thanked him for his service as a long time Select Board member. Robert received a standing ovation.

Jack Mitchell presented Lois DeYoung with flowers and thanked her for her service with the Budget Committee. Lois received a standing ovation.

Moderator Richard Chamberlain introduced the Selectboard, Supervisors of the Checklist, Town Clerk, Assistant Moderator, Police Chief, Fire Chief, State Representative, Library Director, Road Agent, Legal Counsel, Town Administrator, and the Budget Committee Chair, who then introduced the Budget Committee members.

A motion was made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Jonathan Morgan to use the Moderator's Rules for the meeting. Motion passed by voice vote.

A motion was made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Jonathan Morgan to waive the reading of the warrant. Motion passed by voice vote.

Robin Wrighton congratulated Robert Mantegari and Lois DeYoung on their service to the town and thanked Nicholas Wrighton for his 9 years of service with the Trustee of the Trust Funds.

Article #1. Motion made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari, to see if the Town shall adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (Known as SB2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Town of Brentwood on the second Tuesday in March. Legal Counsel spoke to correction of Article #1 being removed from the 2023 Town Election ballot and added to the 2023 Town Meeting warrant. Motion made by Robin Wrighton and duly seconded by James Berlo to table Article #1 indefinitely. Motion made by Lois DeYoung and duly seconded by James Berlo to close debate. Motion to close debate passed by show of voting cards. **Article #1 tabled by show of voting cards.** Motion made by Robert Mantegari and duly seconded by Andrew Artimovich to restrict reconsideration of Article #1. Motion to restrict reconsideration passed by show of voting cards.

Motion made by Lois DeYoung, who provided a signed list of at least 5 registered voters, to vote on Article #2 by ballot vote.

Article #2. Motion made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Jonathan Morgan, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Million, Five Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand, Eight Hundred Ninety-Eight Dollars (\$5,525,898) for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required) An amendment was made by Elizabeth "Liz" Faria and duly seconded by Patrick Marcoux to amend Article #2 to \$5,320,565. Motion made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari to close debate on amendment. Motion to close debate passed by show of voting cards. **Article #2 amendment failed by show of voting cards. (YES 110 NO 125)** Motion made by Lois DeYoung, who provided a signed list of at least 5 registered voters, to vote on Article #2 if amended again by ballot vote. An amendment was made by Liz Faria and duly seconded by Patrick Marcoux to amend Article #2 to \$5,355,050. Motion made by Steven Dawson and duly seconded by Patrick Marcoux to close debate on amendment. Motion to close debate passed by show of voting cards. **Article #2 amendment passed by ballot vote. (YES 140 NO 129)** Motion made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari to close debate on Article #2, as amended. Motion to close debate passed by show of voting cards. **Article #2, as amended, passed by ballot vote. (YES 178 NO 79)** Motion made by Robert Mantegari and duly seconded by Jim Johnson to restrict reconsideration of Article #2. Motion to restrict reconsideration passed by show of voting cards.

Article #3. Motion made Robert Mantegari and duly seconded Andrew Artimovich, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the existing Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund to meet our constitutional and statutory requirement that assessments are at full and true value at least as often as every fifth year. (Majority vote required) Motion made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari to close debate on amendment. Motion to close debate passed by show of voting cards. **Article #3 passed by show of voting cards.** Motion made by Robert Mantegari and duly seconded by Jennifer Jones restrict reconsideration of Article #3. Motion to restrict reconsideration passed by show of voting cards.

Article #4. Motion made by Jonathan Morgan and duly seconded by Andrew Artimovich, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the existing Information Systems Hardware Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required) An amendment was made by Robin Wrighton and duly seconded by James Berlo to amend Article #4 to \$15,000. Motion made by Kim Leo and duly seconded by Jessica Balukas to close debate. Motion to close debate passed by show of voting cards. **Article #4 amendment failed by show of voting cards.** Motion made by Jonathan Morgan and duly seconded by Andrew Artimovich to close debate of Article #4, as written. Motion to close debate passed by show of voting cards. **Article #4, as written passed by**

show of voting cards. Motion made by Jonathan Morgan and duly seconded by Katie Coppola to restrict reconsideration of Article #4. Motion to restrict reconsideration passed by show of voting cards.

Article #5. Motion made by Robert Mantegari and duly seconded by Andrew Artimovich, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the existing Maintenance of Town Buildings Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required)

Motion made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari to close debate. Motion to close debate passed by show of voting cards. **Article #5 passed by show of voting cards.** Motion made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Jennifer Jones to restrict reconsideration of Article #5. Motion to restrict reconsideration passed by show of voting cards.

Motion made by Lois DeYoung, who provided a signed list of at least 5 registered voters, to vote on Article #6 by ballot vote.

Article #6. Motion made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari, to see if the Town will vote to establish 1 new full time police officer position effective April 1, 2023 for an estimated annual wage, benefit, and other related costs of \$101,534 and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$73,717 for wages, benefits, and other related costs for the period of April 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. (Majority vote required) Motion made by Robert Mantegari and duly seconded by Andrew Artimovich to close debate. Motion to close debate passed by show of voting cards. Motion for ballot vote withdrawn by the 5 registered voters who sign the original request. **Article #6 passed by show of voting cards.** Motion made by Robert Mantegari and duly seconded by Andrew Artimovich to restrict reconsideration of Article #6. Motion to restrict reconsideration passed by show of voting cards.

Article #7. Motion made by Robert Mantegari and duly seconded by Jennifer Jones, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the existing Police Facility Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required) Motion made by Patrick Marcoux and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari to close debate. Motion made to close debate passed by show of voting cards. **Article #7 passed by show of voting cards.** Motion made by Robert Mantegari and duly seconded by Andrew Artimovich to restrict reconsideration of Article #7. Motion to restrict reconsideration passed by show of voting cards.

Article #8. Motion made by Jennifer Jones and duly seconded by Jonathan Morgan, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000) for the purpose of public road repair and maintenance. (Majority vote required) Motion made by Robert Mantegari and duly seconded by Andrew Artimovich to close debate. Motion to close debate passed by show of voting cards. **Article #8 passed by show of voting cards.** Motion made by Robert Mantegari and duly seconded by Andrew Artimovich to restrict reconsideration of Article #8. Motion to restrict reconsideration passed by voting cards.

Article #9. Motion made by Jonathan Morgan and duly seconded by Andrew Artimovich, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the existing Highway Vehicles/Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required) Motion made by Bill Faria and duly seconded by Andrew Artimovich to close debate. Motion to close debate passed by show of voting cards. **Article #9 passed by show of voting cards.** Motion made by Jonathan Morgan and duly seconded by Andrew Artimovich to restrict reconsideration of Article #9. Motion to restrict reconsideration passed by show of voting cards.

Article #10. Motion made by Russ Kelly and duly seconded by Andrew Artimovich, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) to be added to the existing Construction of Highway Building(s) Capital Reserve Fund. Motion made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari to close debate. Motion to close debate passed by show of voting cards. **Article #10 passed by show of voting cards.** Motion made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari to restrict reconsideration of Article #10. Motion to restrict reconsideration passed by show of voting cards.

Article #11. Motion made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the existing Fire/Rescue Vehicles Replacement Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required).

Motion made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari to close debate. Motion to close debate passed by show of voting cards. **Article #11 passed by show of voting cards.** Motion made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari to restrict reconsideration of Article #11. Motion to restrict reconsideration passed by show of voting cards.

Motion made by Lois DeYoung, who provided a signed list of at least 5 registered voters, to vote on Article #12 by ballot vote.

Article #12. Motion made by Jennifer Jones and duly seconded by Andrew Artimovich, to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$168,000) for the purchase of a 50 portable radios, 4 mobile radios, equipment and installation (Majority Vote Required) An amendment was made by Liz Faria and duly seconded by Patrick Marcoux to amend the amount to \$37,333, for 10 portable and 2 mobile radios. Motion made by James Berlo and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari to close debate. Motion to close debate passed by show of voting cards. **Article #12 amendment failed by show of voting cards.** An amendment was made by James Berlo and duly seconded by Deborah Harris to amend the amount to \$1. Motion made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari to close debate. Motion to close debate passed by show of voting cards. **Article #12 amendment failed by show of voting cards.** Motion made by Corey Beem and duly seconded by Louise Artimovich to close debate on Article #12, as written. Motion to close debate on Article #12, as written passed by show of voting cards. **Article #12 passed by ballot vote. (YES 115 NO 63)** Motion made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari to restrict reconsideration of Article #12. Motion to restrict reconsideration passed by show of voting cards.

Motion made by Lois DeYoung, who provided a signed list of at least 5 registered voters, to vote on Article #13 by ballot vote.

Article #13. Motion made by Robert Mantegari and duly seconded by Jennifer Jones, to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) to be added to the existing Library Amphitheater Capital Reserve Fund (Majority Vote Required).

3:00pm Moderator, Richard Chamberlain, turns over the moderating of town meeting to, Assistant Moderator, Melissa Hanlon.

Motion made by Liz Faria and duly seconded by James Berlo to table Article #13 indefinitely.

Motion made by Melissa Litchfield, who provided a signed list of at least 5 registered voters, to vote to table Article #13 by ballot vote.

Motion made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari to close debate. Motion to close debate passed by show of voting cards. **Article #13 tabled by ballot vote. (YES 95 NO 73)**

Motion made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari to restrict reconsideration of Article #13. Motion to restrict reconsideration passed by show of voting cards.

Article #14. Motion made by Jonathan Morgan and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari, to see if the town shall modify the provisions of RSA 72:39-b for the Elderly Exemption from property tax in the Town of Brentwood based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows?

For a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$125,000

For a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$160,000

For a person 80 years of age or older \$190,000

To qualify, the person must have been a NH resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or, if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$50,000 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$65,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$200,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. (Majority vote required) Motion made by Jonathan Morgan and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari to close debate. Motion to close debate passed by show of voting cards. **Article #14 passed by show of voting cards.** Motion made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari to restrict reconsideration of Article #14. Motion to restrict reconsideration passed by show of voting cards.

Motion made by Robert Richard and duly seconded by Jim Johnson to move Article #20 before Article #15. Motion passed by show of voting cards.

Motion made by Lois DeYoung, who provided a signed list of at least 5 registered voters, to vote on Article #20 by ballot vote.

Article #20. Motion made by Joshua Bertoulin and duly seconded by Eric Turer to see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:61 through RSA 72:72 inclusively, which provide for an optional property tax exemption from the property's assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with solar energy systems, wind-powered energy systems or wood heating energy systems intended for use at the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount equal to 100% of the assessed value of qualifying equipment under these statutes (Majority vote required) *or to take any other action in relation thereto. Motion made by Robert Mantegari and duly seconded by Andrew Artimovich to end debate. Motion to close debate passed by show of voting cards. **Article #20 failed by ballot vote. (YES 30 NO 97)** Motion made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari to restrict reconsideration of Article #20. Motion to restrict reconsideration passed by show of voting cards.

Article #15. Motion made by Russ Kelly and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari, to see if the town shall modify the provisions of RSA 72:37-b, Exemption for the Disabled from property tax, based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers to be \$100,000. To qualify the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$45,000 or if married, a combined net income of not more than \$60,000 and own net assets not in excess of \$125,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. (Majority vote required) Motion made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Robert

Mantegari to close debate. Motion to close debate passed by show of voting cards. **Article #15 passed by show of voting cards.** Motion made by Robert Mantegari and duly seconded by Jonathan Morgan to restrict reconsideration of Article #15. Motion to restrict reconsideration passed by show of voting cards.

Article #16. Motion made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Jonathan Morgan, to see if the Town shall modify the provisions of RSA 72:37, Exemption for the Blind, to allow an inhabitant who is legally blind as determined by the blind services program, to be exempt each year on the assessed value, for property tax purposes, of his or her residential real estate to the value of \$100,000 (Majority vote required) Motion made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari to close debate. Motion to close debate passed by show of voting cards. **Article #16 passed by show of voting cards.** Motion made by Robert Mantegari and duly seconded by Jonathan Morgan to restrict reconsideration of Article #16. Motion to restrict reconsideration passed by show of voting cards.

Article #17. Motion made by Jennifer Jones and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari, to see if the Town shall readopt the OPTIONAL VETERANS' TAX CREDIT in accordance with RSA 72:28, II, for an annual tax credit on residential property of \$750 (Majority vote required) Motion made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari to close debate. Motion to close debate passed by show of voting cards. **Article #17 passed by show of voting cards.** Motion made by Robert Mantegari and duly seconded by Andrew Artimovich to restrict reconsideration of Article #17. Motion to restrict reconsideration passed by show of voting cards.

Article #18. Motion made Robert Mantegari and duly seconded by Andrew Artimovich, to see if the Town shall readopt the ALL VETERANS' TAX CREDIT in accordance with RSA 72:28-b, for an annual tax credit on residential property which shall be equal the same amount as the standard or optional veterans' tax credit voted by the town under RSA 72:28? (Majority vote required) Motion made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari to close debate. Motion to close debate passed by show of voting cards. **Article #18 passed by show of voting cards.** Motion made by Robert Mantegari and duly seconded by Andrew Artimovich to restrict reconsideration of Article #18. Motion to restrict reconsideration passed by show of voting cards.

Article #19. Motion made by Jonathan Morgan and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari, to see if the Town shall modify the provisions of RSA 72:35 for an optional tax credit of \$2000 for a ServiceConnected Total Disability on residential property? (Majority vote required) Motion made by Andrew Artimovich and duly seconded by Robert Mantegari to close debate. Motion to close debate passed by show of voting cards. **Article #19 passed by show of voting cards.** Motion made by Robert Mantegari and duly seconded by Andrew Artimovich to restrict reconsideration of Article #18. Motion to restrict reconsideration passed by show of voting cards.

Motion made by Melissa Litchfield, who provided a signed list of at least 5 registered voters, to vote on Article #21 by ballot vote.

Article #21. Motion made by Bill Dunham and duly seconded by Jim Johnson, to see if the partisan ballot system for the election of town officers be adopted by this town? The partisan ballot system shall not be in effect until the town election first following the meeting at which such system is adopted. A plurality shall elect when using the partisan ballot system. (Majority vote required) Motion made by Robert Mantegari and duly seconded by Jonathan Morgan to close debate. Motion to close debate passed by show of voting cards. **Article #21 failed by ballot vote. (YES 22 NO 100).** Motion made by Robert

Mantegari and duly seconded by Andrew Artimovich to restrict reconsideration of Article #21. Motion to restrict reconsideration passed by show of voting cards.

Albert Belanger asked that we adjourn in honor of Kenneth Cowan who did so much for the Town of Brentwood, not only as a volunteer, but also as Brentwood Police Officer.

Motion made by Robert Mantegari and duly seconded by Andrew Artimovich to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 4:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Daphne Woss
Town Clerk

State of New Hampshire County of Rockingham ss
On this the 22 day of March (yr.) 2020 before me
HEATHER HAGGETT, the undersigned officer
personally appeared DAPHNE WOSS
known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person
whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and
acknowledged that he/she executed the same for the
purposes therein contained. In witness where in hereunto
set my hand and official seal.

